

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 MCT-01 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5311

INFO AMEBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 6322

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, DA

SUBJ: SAS PILOT STRIKE

1. ACCORDING TO THE DANISH PRESS, DANISH SAS PILOTS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN COLLEAGUES, WILL GO ON A FORTY-EIGHT HOUR STRIKE STARTING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1977, JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL PILOTS' STRIKE IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENT INVOLVING THE MURDER OF A LUFTHANSA AIRLINE CAPTAIN. NIELS VOETMANN, CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH PILOTS' ASSOCIATION, STATED THAT THE STRIKE ACTION HERE WILL BE IN SUPPORT OF UN SECGEN WALKHEIM'S WISH TO DISCUSS AIR PIRACY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE IN THE UN.

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2. PILOTS OF PRIVATELY OWNED STERLING AIRWAYS AND CONAIR DO NOT PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN STRIKE. THESE PILOTS ARE OUTSIDE THE DANISH PILOTS' ASSOCIATION.

3. THE SAS PILOTS' STRIKE WOULD AFFECT 950 DEPARTURES OVER THE WORLD AT A COST TO SAS OF ABOUT 25 MILLION KRONER

(APPROX. DOLLARS 4.2 MILLION). IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 40,000 PASSENGERS WOULD BE AFFECTED HERE AND ABROAD.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THE PRESS REPORTS QUOTED ABOVE, THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT WHETHER SAS PILOTS WILL GO ON STRIKE. DANISH REGIONAL SAS MANAGER TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 20 THAT HE WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH TIMELY PROGRESS IN THE UN TO SATISFY THE SAS PILOTS' ASSOCIATION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SAS PILOTS RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS SUCH CALLS HAD BEEN LIMITED, WITH ONLY THE SWEDISH PILOTS PARTICIPATING THE LAST TIME. ON OCTOBER 21 THE PAN AM DISTRICT MANAGER FOR SCANDINAVIA EXPRESSED SIMILAR DOUBTS ABOUT SAS SUPPORT FOR A SHUTDOWN OCTOBER 25.

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